



Japanese American Veterans Association

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Nisei Veterans Meet with President Barack Obama



As part of Remembrance Day events, Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson of the National Veterans Network and Floyd Mori, President and CEO of Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) arranged for seven Nisei veterans to meet with President Barack Obama on February 18, 2014, at the Oval Office of the White House. The President thanked the veterans for their service and congratulated them on the return of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Smithsonian. On February 18, 2014, Guantam Raghaven of the White House staff posted a report of the visit on the White House website. Persons in the photo with President Obama (L-R): Floyd Mori, Joseph Kurata, San Francisco, CA, Military Intelligence Service; Terry Shima, Gaithersburg, MD, 442nd; Tommie Okabayashi, Houston, TX, 442nd; President Obama; James Takemori, Arlington, VA, 100th Bn.; Susumu Ito, Wellesley, MA, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; Nelson Akagi, Salt Lake City, UT, 522nd; Grant Ichikawa, Vienna, VA, MIS; Christine Sato-Yamazaki.

The President said: "We are all grateful to you for everything you have done for our country. Because of your outstanding bravery, it shines a spotlight on the wrong that was done to Japanese Americans during World War 2. And you know that has had a lasting impact on the country as a whole because it reminded us that this country is built not on a particular race or religion or ethnicity, but it is based on creed and ideals that you have all followed. And so you know that what you did was important not only to the world, but it was important to reshaping of how America thinks about itself. For that we are very, very thankful."

President's Message



and M Street NW, Washington, DC.

Grayce was a kind and quiet person. When she did speak, she was always insightful, direct, and fearless in "telling it like it is." I always listened and learned. I will miss her.

Gerald Yamada, Esq., JAVA President

Grayce Uyehara passed away on June 22, 2014. She was 94 and a long time resident of the Philadelphia area. One of her major contributions was her role in making JACL's redress initiative a legislative success story. In 1984, when JACL's efforts to seek passage of its redress legislation were stalled and in complete disarray, Grayce was asked to lead the effort as the executive director of JACL's Legislative Education Committee (LEC) working out of JACL's Washington, DC office. She, together with a team of volunteers, resuscitated the stalled redress initiative. Her team consisted of Grant Ujifusa, Min Yasui, Cherry Kinoshita, Denny Yasuhara, Shig Wakamatsu, Mae Takahashi, Peggy Liggett, Molly Fujioka, Harry Kajihara, Tom Kometani, Rudy Tokiwa, Mary Tsukamoto, Art Morimitsu, Judy Niizawa, Meriko Mori and Ruth Hashimoto. They worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles in Congress, garnered support from key legislative leaders, and persuaded President Ronald Reagan to change his initial opposition to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which he signed on August 10, 1988.

Grayce is depicted in "Crossing," artist Alfred J. Smith's large acrylic painting (1986), which is hung in the Washington DC Convention Center lobby area. The painting includes then prominent community leaders crossing the street at the corner of Connecticut Avenue



JAVA President's Statement Concerning Secretary Shinseki's Resignation

Washington, D.C., May 30, 2014. – Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) President Gerald Yamada released the following statement today after Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced that he would step down from his post:

"In the best traditions of the military, Secretary Eric Shinseki offered his resignation to take responsibility for systemic problems for which he had no direct involvement. Secretary Shinseki was faced with the insurmountable burden to anticipate problems where his subordinates apparently misrepresented and covered up the lack of care for veterans. It is regrettable that President Obama accepted his resignation preventing this proven leader, hero, and public servant the opportunity to be a part of the solution to address the systemic challenges to improve the well-being of our veterans and accountability within the Department of Veterans Affairs. JAVA wishes Secretary Shinseki success in his future endeavors."



Eric Ken Shinseki
7th US Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
January 21, 2009 – May 30, 2014
34th Chief of Staff, US Army,
January 21, 1999 – June 11, 2003

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JAVA Advocate

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LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR, Editor Emeritus
Erika L. Moritsugu, Esq., Editor Emeritus

JAVA Celebrated Memorial Day 2014 with Events at Arlington Cemetery and a March on Constitution Avenue

Washington, DC. During the 2014 Memorial Day weekend, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) participated in the Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery and the Memorial Day March on Constitution Avenue. The Japanese American Citizens League --



The JACL-JAVA contingent following the laying of the wreath. L-R: RADM Joseph M. Vojvodich, USCG, Jurnee Padgett, Vincent Matsui, LT Jason Osuga, USN, and Honor Guard Officer. Photo from Vincent Matsui.

Washington DC (JACL-WDC) and JAVA held a 45-minute program at the Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard. As part of this program, Ms. Jurnee Padgett, a fifth grade student of the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, MD, and Rear Admiral Joseph M. Vojvodich, the US Coast Guard Program Executive Officer spoke about Memorial Day. Ms. Padgett described her views by stating "Many people will spend Memorial Day by visiting this cemetery, hosting family gatherings and participating in parades. I have the privilege to be here with you to remember and honor those who died while serving in the military for our protection, and freedom." She further explained what made her proud on Memorial Day, "It is their service, commitment and sacrifice for something considered to be a greater cause."

Admiral Vojvodich, the keynote speaker, provided an insightful reminder of the true meaning of Memorial



Part of JAVA parade contingent. L-R: Gerald Yamada, Victoria Matsui, Madeleine Matsui, RADM Joseph M. Vojvodich, USCG, and color bearers, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret)(face hidden), Vincent Matsui, and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret). Photo by Jim McCullum.

Day. He said "Memorial Day is among our nation's most important and solemn holidays...it is a day for Americans of all ages and all backgrounds to come together and honor those who have sacrificed in service to our country." He discussed the need to honor the past and "fulfill an obligation we have to the fallen." He said the brave men who have fallen remind those who are serving of the significance of the oath they have taken to defend their nation.

Following the program, Mr. Turner Kobayashi organized teams to lay flowers at the grave sites of 77 Japanese Americans who are interred at Arlington and LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) directed the JAVA participation in the National Memorial Day Parade. JAVA has participated each year since the inception of the American Veterans Center's National Memorial Day Parade ten years ago, in part as a tribute to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. When the 442nd returned from Europe, it marched down the same Constitution Avenue on July 15, 1946, from the US Capitol to the Ellipse, where it was greeted and reviewed by President Harry Truman, who then awarded the regiment with its seventh Distinguished Unit Citation. [Editor's Note: Full article available at www.javadc.org under Press Releases]

The Story of the Golden Cranes of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

Washington, DC. Created by renowned sculptor Nina Akamu for the National Memorial to Patriotism located near the Capitol Building on New Jersey and Louisiana Avenues and D Street NW, the sculpture symbolizes the unique experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II.

It promotes a national healing for 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly imprisoned in relocation camps without regard to their constitutional rights; the sculpture honors the 33,000 WWII Japanese American veterans; and provides hope that America will remember the harsh lessons learned from its past struggles to overcome present and future challenges.



Photo by Nina Akamu

The sculpture's design pays a solemn tribute to the heroism and sacrifices of Japanese American veterans who fought and died for this country. Visually, the symmetrical outline of the cranes' bodies form the silhouette of the urn. Arising from the urn, the golden vertical wings are transformed into the eternal flame of freedom as they reflect the brilliance of the sun. By identifying with the eternal flame of freedom used in the military insignia of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and in the logo of the Japanese American Veteran's Association, this design honors the veterans' willingness to preserve the flame of freedom by answering the call to service, while their families were imprisoned in America's concentration camps.

At its full height of 14 feet, the liberated golden wings rise above the stark granite walls. This shining beacon of hope presents the Japanese American experience as an example of triumph over adversity and is a compelling demonstration of faith to freedom loving people everywhere." [Editor's Note: Full article and background on the sculptor at www.javadc.org under Press Releases]



Photo by Dan Matthews

President Truman Salutes the 442nd Regimental Combat Team - The Symbolic Meaning of the President's Salute.

Ellipse, The White House. When President Harry S. Truman saluted the colors of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during the rainy afternoon of July 15, 1946, he confirmed Japanese American loyalty to the United States of America. This act at the Ellipse, on the outer south lawn of the White House, was the final hard-fought culmination of the combined effort of over 21,000 Japanese Americans who served in the US Army during World War II to prove their loyalty. The President's remarks were profound and we present them below for your review:

"It is a very great pleasure to me today to be able to put the seventh regimental citation on your banners."

"You are to be congratulated on what you have done for this great country of ours. I think that it was my predecessor who said that Americanism is not a matter of race or creed, it is a matter of the heart."

"You fought for the free nations of the world along with the rest of us. I congratulate you on that, and I can't tell you how very much I appreciate the privilege of being able to show you just how much the United States of America thinks of what you have done."

"You are now on your way home. You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice - and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win - to make this great Republic stand for just what the Constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all the people all the time."

Then, commanding the color guard to "Bring forth the colors," President Truman proceeded to award the 442nd its seventh Presidential Unit Citation.

To appreciate the full significance of President Truman's remarks, one needs to examine the chain of events that began to unfold on January 5, 1942, when the draft classification of Americans of Japanese ancestry was changed from I-A, available for unrestricted military service, to IV-C, a designation given to aliens, not acceptable for military duty. Ignoring the fact that many Japanese Americans had served and were serving on active duty in the military for decades, this act was tantamount to the nation notifying a segment of its citizens that they were no longer Americans. Shortly after this, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was issued that forcibly confined 118,000 ethnic Japanese, approximately two-thirds of them US-born citizens, in internment camps without charges or reason other than their ethnicity. These Japanese-Americans and their elders, with few exceptions, obeyed the government's orders and persevered.

Young Nisei men, individually and in groups, petitioned the government to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty. After great debate, the Army issued a call for volunteers, forming the 100th Infantry Battalion, and subsequently the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was



President Harry Truman, despite the rain, reviews the 442nd RCT

activated. Many volunteered while being confined in barbed wire enclosed internment camps. The Nisei fought with a mission: to prove their loyalty - the only ethnic group that served in combat during World War II for this purpose. When the war ended the US Army announced that the 100th Battalion and 442nd combat record was "unsurpassed", including its record for never having any soldier "absent without leave" or charged with desertion.

Fourteen thousand men served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd, approximately 4,000 Nisei linguists served in the Asia Pacific theater, five served as gunners in the Army Air Corps, two served in the Normandy invasion, some 200 Nisei women served in the Womens Army Corps and Nurses Corps and some 4,000 served in domestic assignments. JAVA Research Team.

'Why invite a guest speaker?'

by Wayne A. Coblentz

[Editor's Note. Mr. Coblentz, history teacher at Liganore High School in Frederick County, has invited JAVA speakers to discuss their WW II experience and legacy for the past 12 years. Independently over the years, he has researched the issue and placed visual aids on the screen to augment the speakers presentations. One year he supported his class project to mount a school-wide signature campaign to support JAVA's effort to obtain approval to get a US postage stamp issued to honor the 442nd. JAVA salutes this fine educator.]

Frederick County, MD. My goal as an educator was to provide my students with the best educational experience as possible. For the past forty years, I have invited guest speakers to provide my students with first hand stories about their experiences while serving in the armed forces, civil rights movement, internment camps and other historical events. The primary goal was to go beyond traditional form of educational methods to reach students who today are dependent upon technology as a source of information.

Guest speakers provide a human element that technology cannot provide, a person to whom the students can identify with. They have the opportunity to ask questions of the guest speaker who can present them an answer through personal experiences. Guest speakers give students an opportunity to see, hear and feel the emotions of the individual who experienced the event. This greatly enhances and enriches their understanding of history.

JAVA speakers such as Mary Murakami, Joe Ichiuji and Grant Hirabayashi have provided my students with a wealth of information about the experiences of Nisei during and after World War 2. They have demonstrated how unwarranted prejudice and biases that blinded Americans during WW 2. Through their perseverance and the willingness of the Nisei to volunteer their services to their nation during WW 2 brought down these walls of prejudices to show how great our nation can become.

The day after the presentations, I always ask the students what they gained from the experience in meeting our guest speakers. They were truly touched by what the guest speakers had told them and were thankful for their contribution in making America a much better country. As president Harry Truman stated at the ellipse on July 15, 1946, "You fought for the free nations of the world. You fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice, and you won. Keep up that fight, continue to win, make this great Republic stand for what the Constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all the people, all the time" Educators must do everything possible to include those who have so much to impart to the youth of America to further their knowledge of our great nation.



Mary Murakami (green jacket) poses with Liganore High School students and Mr. Coblentz (right) on 5/19/2014.

JAVA Seeking Donations of Artifacts to the National Museum of the United States Army

Washington, DC. JAVA is working closely with the Center for Military History (CMH) and the Army Historical Foundation on exhibits that will relate the history of the Nisei experience during World War II. The exhibits will be displayed at the National Museum of the United States Army that is scheduled to open in June 2015. Over 40 acres of land will house the museum on Fort Belvoir, Virginia, about 20 miles south of Washington, DC. It will be the pre-eminent museum for the United States Army.

CMH plans to include a permanent exhibit honoring the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) but does not have any artifacts in its holdings for the permanent exhibit. The Center has asked for JAVA's help to obtain artifacts from the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT from the World War II era. Artifacts include items such as clothing, insignia, subsistence items, equipment, documents (other than photographs, posters, and motion pictures), artwork, and any other item that can be associated with either military unit or a member of either unit.

Welcome New Members!

MSgt Marion Andrews, USAF(Ret)
 RDML David Mikio Boone, USN (Ret)
 LTC Troy Norihiko Ellis, USA
 Col Robert Hashimoto, USMCR
 SPC Lisa Yoshizawa Hoskins, USA
 Masaru Ted Kamada
 CAPT Richard Atsuhiko Kondo, USNR
 MAJ Lynn B. Mariano, USA (Ret)
 2LT Roger Minami, USAR
 LCDR John Miichio Miyahara, USN
 Lea Mizumoto (Friends of JAVA)
 Mike Mizumoto (Friends of JAVA)
 Peggy Mizumoto (Friends of JAVA)
 LTC David C. Rasmussen, USA (Ret)

Artifacts that are accepted for donation will greatly assist in commemorating the dedication and courage of those that served in the 442nd RCT. Your donations will go a long way to ensure their recognition. If you have an artifact that you want to donate for the 100th/442nd permanent exhibit, contact Gerald Yamada, JAVA President, 10316 Mountington Court; Vienna, VA 22182; (703) 938-3074; gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com; [Editor's Note: Full article at www.javadc.org under Press Releases]



Architect's conception of US Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, VA

JAVA Vice President Wade Ishimoto Inducted as Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment by LTC Kay Wakatake, USA

FORT BRAGG, NC (Apr. 25, 2014) – In a packed auditorium at the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, JAVA Vice President Wade Ishimoto, Captain, U.S. Army (Ret), was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment.

Accompanied by his wife Bobbi, Ishimoto was the sole living inductee to the Special Forces Regiment, also known as the Special Forces Regimental Hall of Fame. On hand to witness this historic moment were several family members and close friends. Ishimoto's dedication to military service has made him a legend in the Special Operations community. He began his affiliation with the Special Forces Regiment in 1968 conducting classified human intelligence cross-border operations in Vietnam. He continued service with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) while leading a civic action and humanitarian relief mission to the Miyako Islands, Okinawa. He was also the intelligence officer and road block security team leader on the ill-fated 1980 mission to rescue 53 American hostages in Tehran, Iran. Even in retirement, Captain Ishimoto continued to contribute to the Special Forces community, including planning and directing national interagency exercises against terrorism, developing the Nuclear Emergency Support Team Key Leader training program, and improving recapture/recovery operations of nuclear weapons.

When asked how it feels to receive this honor, Ishimoto said, "The term 'Quiet Professionals' is often used to describe those in Special Forces, and it describes a person who serves with honor and humility that never seeks self-recognition but who seeks to help others. Those traits were taught to me by many in the military, and especially in Special Forces. I just wish that I could have honored them at the ceremony because my induction is because of who they were and what they taught me. The true honor of the induction belongs to them, as I am simply the embodiment of each and every one of them. I salute them for making me what I am today and for the induction." [Editor's Note: Full article on www.javadc.org under Press Releases]



L to R: LTC Kay Wakatake; CSM Ernest Tabata; LTC Jason Kuroiwa; Wade Ishimoto; LTC (Ret) Mark Nakagawa; 2LT Yohei Sakamoto; Jacklyn Sakamoto. Taken at Fort Bragg, NC, on April 25, 2014, at the John F. Kennedy auditorium. Photo from LTC Nakagawa.

JAVA Bids Farewell to COL Yoshihiro Iseri

On June 19, 2014, JAVA said farewell to COL Yoshihiro Iseri, JGSDF (left), Military Attaché of the Embassy of Japan at the China Garden in Rosslyn, Virginia. After three years in Washington, DC, COL Iseri is returning to Japan. President Gerald Yamada (center) conveyed JAVA's appreciation for the fine partnership it enjoyed with the Office of the Defense Attaché and presented COL Iseri with a JAVA awards clock with the following inscription: "For your steadfast efforts to build strong US-Japan relations". COL Masashi Yamamoto (right) is succeeding COL Iseri. Bon voyage to COL Iseri and his family. Photo by LTC Ai Goshi.



Promotion Ceremony for LCDR Janelle Kuroda

WASHINGTON - LCDR Janelle Kuroda's father (left), who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and World War II 442nd RCT veteran Terry Shima (right) replace shoulder boards during a promotion ceremony at the U.S. Department of State on December 2, 2013. Kuroda (center) currently serves as a general attorney at the Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office, Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia. Outside of the Navy Reserve, she is a foreign affairs officer in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Kuroda is a life JAVA member and hails from Hilo, Hawaii. Photo from LCDR Kuroda.



JAVA Members Participate in Asian Pacific Heritage Month Activities



RADM Brian Losey, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, Coronado, CA, was the keynote speaker at the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month festival in San Diego, CA on May 14, 2014. In his remarks, RADM Losey, a JAVA life member, recognized the Asian Pacific American veterans and active duty personnel. Following the event, RADM Losey poses with two 442nd/100th veterans, L-R: Frank Mitoshi Wada, Co E; RADM Losey, and Masayoshi Tsuida, Co C. RADM Losey's mother is Japanese and his wife is Filipina. Photo by Linda McLemore.



Lt. Col. Timothy Abe, US Marines (Ret.) was invited by the US Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis, VA on May 20. His topic was Asian American impact on the US Military. Lt. Col. Abe, JAVA member, is a resident of Virginia Beach, VA. Photo by Master Sgt Lynne Robinson.



Mary Murakami, following her presentation to over 100 history students at Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, VA on April 29, 2014. Students asked informed questions. Photo by Julie Cantor.

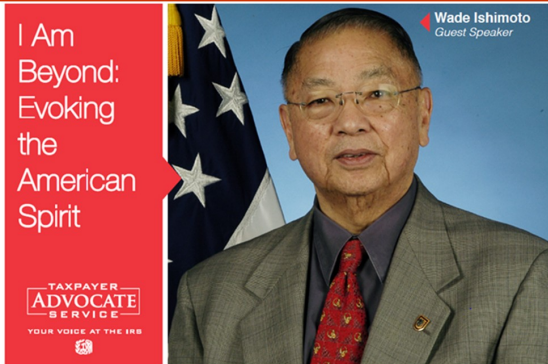


Mary Murakami speaking to Capital City Public Charter School, Washington, DC, history class on May 1, 2014. Photo by Mr. Hipkins.



The National Education Association (NEA) celebrated Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month on May 2, 2014. Following their presentations, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima pose with NEA officials. Left to right: Rebecca Pringle, NEA Secretary Treasurer; Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA Vice President; Jacquie Watts Greadington, Black Caucus Co-Chair; Ronald Martin, American Indian-Alaska Native Caucus Chair; Doreen McGuire-Grigg, NEA Board of Directors; Mary Murakami; Dennis Van Roekel, NEA President; Terry Shima; Fran Bellinger, Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus Member; Richard Lum, Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus Chair; Kim Colbert, Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus Member. Photo from Sabrina Holcomb.

JAVA Members Participate in Asian Pacific Heritage Month Activities (continued from page 7)



On May 26, 2014, Wade Ishimoto, JAVA Vice President, was invited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Headquarters to speak on the subject *Going Beyond*. This program was part of the IRS Asian American Pacific Islander and Military Appreciation Month observance. Ishimoto said "Going Beyond requires the support of others along with individual effort. This support includes the importance of an extended family and mentors, of being resolute and having responsibility for others, being unified as a citizenry, and having respect for others."



Following their presentations at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) at Chantilly, Virginia, on May 9, 2014, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima were presented with souvenir mementos. L-R: Oscar Knock, President of NRO Asian Pacific American Network (APAN), Murakami, Shima, and Mari Boyle, Communications Officer for NRO APAN. NRO is the U.S. Government agency in charge of designing, building, launching, and maintaining America's intelligence satellites. Photo from NRO.



On May 7, 2014, Wade Ishimoto spoke to the students and faculty of The Judge 'Advocate General's Legal Center & School, U.S. Army, located at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, VA for its annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event was a part of the school's special emphasis program to enrich one's appreciation for diversity in the United States. Ishimoto gave the key note speech, titled "I Am Beyond" attributing his success to the Hawaiian culture of *Ohana*, "extended family," *Onipa'a*, "being resolute, desire, determination, courage," and *Ha'aha'a*, "humility and respect to others." He shared the importance of being a part of an extended family within the armed service by being mentored and mentoring those around us and the importance one's effort to sacrifice. To bring everyone together at the end, Mr. Ishimoto led the attendees in singing *God Bless America*, closing the event with an *Ohana* experience.

Following the event, Mr. Ishimoto spoke to

the school's Intelligence Law elective students, sharing his experience as a long time Special Operations operator and a primary expert in counter-terrorism. The young Army lawyers felt the lecture was a success because it gave them useful background knowledge especially when they are deployed to the field to support special operations and intelligence operators.

In the photo above, Ishimoto is standing in the back, at the right marked by a lighted window. Photo from JAG law school.

Following his presentation, Ishimoto viewed the display of COL Walter Tsukamoto (right), who served in the JAG Corps at the MIS Language School at Fort Snelling, MN, the War Crimes Trial in post-war Japan, and finally in Germany where he died in 1961 in the line of duty. Photo by MAJ Kagawa.



JAVA Members Participate in Asian Pacific Heritage Month Activities (continued from page 8)



BISHKEK, Kyrgyz Republic - On May 28, 2014, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Interim Director Janelle Kuroda (center-blue dress) gave a presentation to Kyrgyz youth at Bayalinov National Library of Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek American Center "America Borboru" in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. Kuroda discussed the Nisei experience and her personal experience growing up in a rural town in Hawaii. She encouraged them to be the change that they want to see in this world, and highlighted Nisei veteran Ben Kuroki, who overcame racial inequalities to serve in air combat operations in both the European and Pacific theaters in World War II. Kuroda also serves as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Photo by Bishkek American Center Coordinator Zhuzumkan Askhatbekova.



JAVA speaker Mary Murakami poses with Robinson High School, Fairfax County, VA, history students following JAVA Speakers Bureau presentation on June 11, 2014. On the right is Hernan Ruiz, history teacher. Arrangement for this event was made by LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret.). Photo by LTC Goshi (Ret.).

DJ Satoda, 2013 Masaoka Scholarship Grantee, Discusses his First Year at Berkeley

At its core, my first year at Cal was nothing short of the most challenging wake-up call I've ever faced. My sheltered high school life had taught me to search for a college program that would reassuringly hold my hand until my graduating launch towards six figures with minimal time and friction. It's no wonder I couldn't see myself attending a public university. Yet, I couldn't be more grateful I ended up at a school so contrary to what I thought college should be.

A truly diverse campus meant new friends representative of numerous socioeconomic and racial groups that had never penetrated my bubble in San Diego. I was humbled daily by the genius of my peers, forerunners of an innovative generation beyond anything history has ever seen. Within the classroom, the crushing presence of grade deflation dared students to rise to the occasion or fall with no safety net. But with any wake-up call comes the clarity of daylight, and with adversity comes solidarity. I have begun to recognize the extreme lengths of my untenable privilege.

As iron on iron, collaboration with minds beyond my own brought new perspective to my point of view. In three days during "Dead Week" (the week before Finals), my friends and I had spent fifty straight hours in the library. Yet, the moments between the studying, of laughter and anguish and triumph, remain within me the most precious and human moments I have ever shared.

The greatest fights validate the greatest ends, and an education earned not given yields rewards far beyond academia. I believe in the dream of public education to foster genuine civil spirit and social awareness, and I am thankful that the degree I aspire for has come to mean more than a voucher for high-rises and luxury items.

I am currently pursuing a double major in English and Business Administration. Working directly on the public relations of hardware startup Podo as an intern has awakened my passion for the startup community. I would love to use my business degree and humanities education to work in a field propelled by the unbridled passions and ambitions of America's greatest dreamers. The guiding lights of JAVA, the Masaoka family, and UC Berkeley are a constant reminder to walk courageously and honorably, enduring difficulties towards greatness. *David Satoda Jr. Sophomore at University of California, Berkeley.*



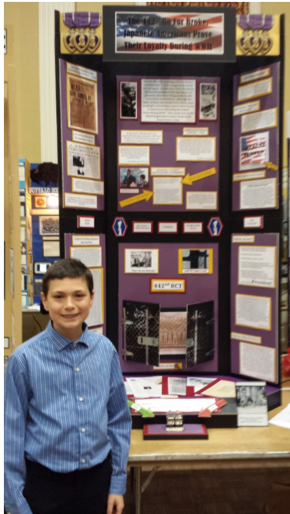
David Satoda Jr. (DJ - SSUR) with David Satoda (father-L), Allie (mother-center), and Tyler (brother-R). Taken on parent's weekend, October 5, 2013, at Hotel Durant, near UC campus. Photo from DJ Satoda.

National History Day Contest Featured Support of two JAVA Members

Started in 1974, over 600,000 sixth to twelfth grade students across America, American Samoa, Guam, international schools and Department of Defense schools competed in the National History Day Contest held at the University of Maryland at College Park on June 15 – 19, 2014. Students selected a historical topic related to the annual theme, conducted their research based on primary and secondary sources and presented their product in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a web site. The 2014 theme was Rights and Responsibilities in History. Winners of the state NHD contest progressed to compete at the national level, the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest. JAVA members were sought by students for interviews. The experience of two students, who reached the national level, are presented below.

New Jersey Middle School Student is Finalist in National History Contest

By Erika Albahazy



Jason Albahazy & his display

Last week my son Jason Albahazy, a sixth grader at Pine Brook School, Manalapan, New Jersey, was a finalist in the 2014 Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Competition. This event is a national contest which involves over half a million students who participate in various categories in regional and statewide competitions. Approximately 3,000 students, finalists in their categories, come together at the University of Maryland, College Park for the national competition.

This year's theme was Rights and Responsibilities in History. Jason is very interested in WWII history.

After much research he discovered the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. Neither Jason nor my family had ever heard of this important Japanese American volunteer troop. Throughout the year Jason researched this topic and created his exhibit on the 442nd RCT. He read primary and secondary sources in libraries, archives, museums and websites. He also interviewed Terry Shima (a 442nd veteran) and Mary Murakami (an internee from the Topaz, Utah Internment Camp), both members of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA).

This experience with National History Day was invaluable. Most of what Jason learned during his research had never been taught in school. He discovered that the men in the 442nd RCT fought for the U.S. despite the fact that many were being held (with their families) in internment camps solely because of their ancestry, by the U.S. government. This was unimaginable. Terry Shima told Jason, "Despite the fact that our government disowned us, we viewed ourselves as Americans and did not lose faith in our government." Jason learned what it meant to be an American citizen.

In addition to competing, Jason's exhibit, along with other competitor's exhibits, was chosen to be displayed at the National Museum of American History last week. At the museum, Jason met people from all over the world and shared his knowledge of the 442nd. During the day, he met family members of 442nd veterans as well as WWII and Vietnam veterans. He shared his exhibit with great pride. Each person that visited Jason's exhibit showed incredible interest. Visitors of the museum shared their own stories and asked questions about the 442nd RCT. The day was unforgettable. National History Day was truly an invaluable experience and one that my son will not forget.

Two Singapore American School students win second Prize in National History Day Competition. JAVA member assisted.

By Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) with contribution from Kim Luoma



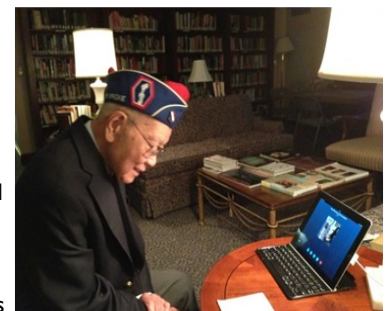
SAS students, Hana Matsudaira (L) and Ruth Jaensubhakij (R)

This past Spring, World War II Veteran Terry Shima woke early to meet with two young Singapore American School (SAS) students a half a world away. He didn't have far to go. Michael Yaguchi, Lt Col, USAF (Retired) had also risen early to help initiate that video call from Terry's residence in Maryland. Students Hana Matsudaira and Ruth Jaensubhakij were recent First Place winners of the "National History Day" SE Asia regional competition. Their project is entitled "Orders, Irony and Liberations: Nisei Soldiers of WWII." First place earned the privilege to compete in the National History Day competition held at the University of Maryland, College Park in June 14-19, 2014 (<http://www.nhd.org/Contest.htm>). They also knew the best research is from primary resources so they sought to enhance their project by interviewing a Soldier who had served with the 442nd to bring a fuller understanding of the times and sacrifices.

First some background. The young ladies contacted Christine Sato-Yamazaki – Executive Director of the National Veterans Network. In a series of quick emails some unexpected connections then revealed themselves in a way that matched the strong desire of Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) quest to nurture the young.

For Michael Yaguchi, a long time leader within the Japanese American Veteran community and Executive Director of PPALM, this was also about family. Hana's grandfather John Matsudaira (who recently passed away) was a 442nd RCT soldier and recipient of the Purple Heart. He just happened to be Yaguchi's uncle. For Shima, executive director emeritus of the Japanese American Veterans Association and PPALM's former Historian, the Singapore American School (SAS) represented another part of his accomplished life. Both his son and daughter had attended the SAS when he was assigned there.

The time and day was set and Shima was eager to try this new way of sharing the experiences he normally did in person. The students were anxious to add to their knowledge and make otherwise dry facts alive, personable, and real. It is the sharing of personal stories and insights that provide the real meanings and connections beyond the facts. This was an excellent example for PPALM and other leaders to expand and adapt mentoring efforts. In communication and education – blended strategies of using a variety of print, web and other technologies assure a richer experience and engagement by everyone.



Shima, in Maryland, viewing screen with photo of two students in Singapore.

Major Mitsuyoshi Fukuda's Significant Contribution to Nisei Legacy

By David Fukuda

Kula, Maui. Major Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, the first Nisei field grade infantry officer in the U.S. Army, became the Commanding Officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion before being promoted to Executive Officer of the 442nd RCT, both firsts for an Asian. Fukuda entered the war with the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) and was the last of the original 100th soldiers to leave Europe. He played significant roles at Monte Cassino and Belvedere, and led "Task Force Fukuda" into the town of Aulla on April 25, 1945 (Liberation Day in Italy). Among the awards Fukuda earned were the Silver Star, French Legion of Honor, Bronze Star, and the Italian La Croce al Merito de Guerra.

Born in Waialua on January 15, 1917, his family was evicted from the sugar plantation during the 1921 workers strike. They eventually settled in McCully, Honolulu, where Fukuda attended McKinley High School and, upon his father's urging, went on to the University of Hawaii. There he earned degrees in agriculture and education and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army through the ROTC program.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Fukuda was teaching at Konawaena School on the island of Hawaii. He was called into active duty with the 299th Infantry Regiment which, along with other Nisei from the 298th Regiment, were placed in the newly formed 100th Infantry Battalion, the first Nisei segregated infantry unit. Following training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi the 100th was deployed to North Africa and Italy in June 1943.

As Company Commander, Fukuda took part in the landings at Salerno and Anzio, and in the battles in Italy through Monte Cassino (Gustav line) to Leghorn. He took leave to Wisconsin in 1944 where he reunited with his wife, Toshiko and their son, David. Fukuda rejoined the 100th in late November 1944 in southern France and spent the remainder of the war in the Po Valley campaign in northern Italy. Major Fukuda departed from Europe on a special army transport command plane to Washington, D.C for a meeting with Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy. A November 14, 1945 memo from McCloy's office outlines three requests made by Fukuda at that meeting:

1. That the 100th/442nd members be permitted to take furlough in the US mainland before being discharged so that they could explore educational opportunities.
2. That the colors of the 100th be returned to Honolulu and the identity of the 100th Infantry be perpetuated in the Territory of Hawaii.
3. That the practice of segregating Americans of Japanese ancestry in the military be discontinued.

Fukuda joined Castle & Cooke, the company that owned the sugar plantation from which his family had been expelled 25 years earlier, and became the first Asian Vice President of a "Big Five" company in Hawaii. He and Toshiko raised a family of three sons and a daughter and had three grandchildren before his passing on March 13, 1988.



MAJ Mitsuyoshi Fukuda during Po Valley campaign, Italy.

West Point Cadets Learn of Japanese American Experience During WWII

by LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret.)

WEST POINT, New York. On May 22, 2014, JAVA representatives, Terry Shima and LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret.), USMA '81, discussed Japanese American experiences in World War II with cadets at the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY. They spoke to future Army officers about the service of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and described the situation of Americans unjustly imprisoned during wartime because of their ethnicity. They challenged cadets to consider these ethical and historical lessons and to consider how they would make decisions throughout their careers leading America's Soldiers and serving the American people.

Shima and Goshi met with cadets in a Law Department course preparing for a visit to key sites in the American civil rights experience. The cadets had studied the court cases relating to Executive Order 9066 and the legacy of Japanese American WWII service, and engaged the JAVA representatives and professors in a lively and insightful question and answer session. Terry then gave the keynote address at the Military Academy's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration. Terry spoke to a large audience composed of cadets, active duty soldiers, family members, and students from other university groups in the area.

The JAVA representatives met with the Superintendent, LTG Robert Caslen, Dean of the Academic Board BG Timothy Trainor, and the Professors and Heads for the Law and History Departments. The visitors were invited to lunch in the Cadet Mess Hall, which seats 4,000 in one sitting, by the Cadet Asian Pacific American Forum, toured the Academy grounds, and observed a rehearsal for the Graduation parade and a demonstration by the Academy's parachute team. A JAVA speakers team was invited to visit USMA during the 2014-2015 school year to discuss the Japanese American experience during WWII with cadets of the History and Law departments and other groups.



US Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 123 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, former Chief of Staff of the US Army, General John Campbell, Vice Chief, US Army, and Admiral Harry Harris, Commander, US Pacific Fleet. Of the 123, 70 served in the US Army, 22 in the US Air Force, 25 in the US Navy, and 2 each in the US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, Public Health Serviced. Broken down in another way, 33 are Chinese American, 13 are Filipino American, 24 are Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 8 are Korean Americans and 45 are Japanese Americans.

General Frederick G. Wong, USA (Ret.)



Frederick G. Wong was born and grew up in Maui, Hawaii and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon receiving his Bachelor's Degree in 1964 from the Eastern Washington University (EWU). He subsequently, received a Master's degree from EWU. His first assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division where he deployed with the Division to the Dominican Republic. He then served two

combat tours of duty in Vietnam. He has held numerous command and staff positions and attended several Army schools including the Army War College.

BG Wong was promoted to general officer rank on June 1, 1991, and served as Deputy Director for Strategic Plans and Policy with US Pacific Command, where he opened relations with the Laotian Army that led to successful exchanges between the US and Laos involving humanitarian issues. His last assignment was as the Director of Officer Personnel Management, where he was responsible for the assignment and career development of Army Officers, and where he managed the drawdown of the Army's Officer Corps due to the end of the Cold War.

After 31 years, BG Wong retired from active duty in 1995. On September 11, 2000, he was appointed a Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service member with the Defense Intelligence Agency and served as Staff Director for Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Support Services, with worldwide responsibilities. He retired in September 2009 after a total of 40 years of service to his Nation

General Wong's awards and decorations include, the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, (3) Legion of Merit, (4) Bronze Star Medal w/V Device for Valor, (2) Purple Heart, (4) Meritorious Service Medal, (2) Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Airborne, and Aircraft Crewman's Badges. He is the recipient of two Defense Intelligence Agency Director's Awards, and was awarded the Asian American Government Executive Network Leadership in Public Service Award in 2012.

General Wong is a founding member of the Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM), a professional network of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, military and civilian, committed to serving the nation and providing leadership, education, and mentoring and fellowship opportunities. In retirement, BG Wong serves on the Director for National Intelligence's, Diversity Advisory Board, and on various church and community organizations in Cumberland County, Tennessee, where he resides. General Wong is married to the former Vicky Tamura of Kilauea, Kauai, and they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF



Major General (Maj Gen) Kelly McKeague is Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. JPAC is responsible for the worldwide analysis and investigation, search and recovery, and laboratory operations to account for missing Americans from past conflicts including World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War. His immediate past position was Assistant to

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard matters.

Of Native Hawaiian ancestry, Maj Gen McKeague was born and raised in Hawai'i, growing up in Liliha and Papakolea on O'ahu. He attended St. Theresa School and graduated from Damien Memorial High School. In 1981, he received a Bachelor's in Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISYE) from the Georgia Institute of Technology and was commissioned through their Air Force ROTC program. In fact, leaving for college was his first trip out of the State of Hawai'i. He also received his Master's in ISYE from Georgia Tech.

He began his military career as a civil engineering officer serving in a variety of assignments at base, major command, and Headquarters Air Force levels. In 1995, he transitioned into the Maryland Air National Guard and served on active duty in civil engineer and legislative liaison assignments. Among his significant joint tours were Chief of Staff, National Guard Bureau, and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters.

Maj Gen McKeague is proud of his dad who is from Aiea and is a retired Army Master Sergeant who served one combat tour in Korea and two in Vietnam. While he did not continue that Army legacy, Maj Gen McKeague's oldest son, an Army Infantry Officer in the Maryland Army National Guard and a Ranger and Pathfinder graduate, has done admirably.

Maj Gen McKeague pursued his Air Force ROTC scholarship as a means to an end, and initially, was only going to fulfill his 4-year commitment. He said, "It didn't take long for me to be attracted to the strong sense of purpose and substantive responsibilities and challenges the Air Force offered. If there was a common thread to my almost 33 years of service it would be never shying from opportunities that were out of my 'comfort zone'. Doing so enhances character and hones leadership."

Maj Gen McKeague's decorations include Defense Superior Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster (olc); Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 olc. He has provided valuable support to JAVA operations by expanding JAVA's name recognition at the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by representing Chairman Mike Mullen in his keynote speeches at a JAVA Quarterly Luncheon and at Eric Saul's 2010 exhibit at Ellis Island Museum, New York.

News from Army's Topside....



[Editor's Note: General John F. Campbell, US Army Vice Chief of Staff, sends a private Newsletter to subscribers in his command, their families and friends. He provides updates of developments in his command, issues facing the Army, and his role. JAVA is privileged to be one of his subscribers. We print below excerpts from his May 2, 2014 Newsletter to tell you what the modern Army looks like. For those who don't know, General Campbell's mother is Japanese. In late June, President Obama appointed GEN Campbell as International Security Assistance Forces Commander and Commander of US Forces in Afghanistan]

The Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) concept has really gotten traction with all of the combatant commanders deployed to over 20 countries on the continent of Africa in varying missions in support of the COCOMs theater Engagement Strategy.

In late April I had the great opportunity to present a retirement award to my West Point Classmate, Major General Chris Leins, Director Strategic Initiatives (J5) on the Joint Staff and his great family. I presented the award prior to his retirement ceremony in Cominy Hall. He was instrumental in shaping Interagency efforts to develop a coherent regional approach to the challenging problems in Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Mali and the Sahel. That same week it was also my honor to meet with Terry Shima, the former Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). He is a veteran of the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team - one of the most decorated units in American history.. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/VCSAJohnCampbell>. Also in April, I had the pleasure of opening the discussion at the Army Science Board (ASB) Spring Plenary Session.

Fort Benning is the home of the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence; The Infantry School; The Armor School; Ranger School; Airborne School; the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division; The Headquarters and 3rd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment among many other units. I had the opportunity to address the Brigade Commanders, Command Sergeants Majors and more than 1,200 junior leaders at the Army Maneuver Center of Excellence. The leader development program in place at Fort Benning is essential to keeping our Army the best in the world. The highlight of the trip was presiding over the retirement ceremony for Lieutenant General Mike Ferriter.. It was my honor to have served with Mike for so many years, most recently as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management/Commanding General, Installation Management Command.



Change of Command at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

In a memorable Change of Command ceremony that took place on June 3, 2014, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, BG Garrett Yee, USA took command of the 335th Signal Command (Theater)(Provisional). LTG James Terry, Commanding General, US Army Central, officiated the transition of leadership, as seen in the photo below, by passing the unit colors from BG Christopher Kemp to BG Yee. Yee said "BG Kemp (facing Yee) and his team have done a great job during his past year in command and I am grateful for his leadership" BG Yee continued "there is no greater privilege in the military than to lead America's men and women, especially during time of war. We, who are deployed, serve at a historic time and I am most thankful to our 2500 Soldiers, Airmen, civilians, and contractors who provide critical communications to those further forward in the fight throughout Southwest Asia, to include Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and other countries in the region." The ceremony was held at the Camp Arifjan gymnasium and witnessed by LTG Robert Ferrell, US Army Chief Information Officer, and other members of the Command. Photo from BG Yee.



2014 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award in History Recognizes “Twice Heroes”



Tom Graves at book signing. Photo from Tom Graves.

San Francisco, CA. *Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea* was awarded the 2014 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award in History, regarded as one of the highest national honors for small and independent publishers. The award was announced May 28, 2014, at a ceremony in New York City. *Twice Heroes* is the first book by writer and photographer, Tom Graves, and the first for Nassau & Wither Spoon Publishers of San Francisco.

Since 1983, Independent Book Publishers Association, IBPA, the largest not-for-profit trade association of independent publishers, has been the leader for education and advocacy. IBPA has joined readers in recognizing *Twice Heroes* as one of the most significant books on the history of Japanese Americans who fought for the United States while their families were interned during World War II. The Nisei became the most decorated soldiers in U.S. military history, and received the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor, in 2011.

Twice Heroes combines the veterans' experiences with 98 striking portraits taken by the author. Since completing *Twice Heroes*, Tom Graves speaks with many groups on Nisei soldiers' legacy of achievement, and continues his work

chronicling under-recognized veterans, and adding their chapters to history books.

About the author:

Tom Graves is a San Francisco photographer and writer with over 30 years' professional experience. He studied portraiture with LIFE photographer Philippe Halsman, and taught for seven years at Parsons School of Design/The New School (now New School University). Photography has taken him to five continents and to all 50 states for clients AT&T, Cisco, IBM, Merrill Lynch, The New York Times, People, and Time Magazine.

Novel, *Coral Hare: Atomic Agent*, with a Japanese American in Lead Role, Has Great Reviews

Summer reading lists tend to have at least one or two World War II-era historical novels or memoirs. Robert Leckie's "Helmet for my Pillow" comes to mind, or maybe a W.E.B. Griffin yarn. Unfortunately, many of these books overlook the contribution of Japanese Americans to the Allied cause during World War II. This cannot be said for "*Coral Hare: Atomic Agent*," a new bestselling novel from Clive Lee. Set in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack, a young Japanese American girl must go behind enemy lines to stop the Japanese atomic weapons project during World War II. The book is inspired by actual historical events, with newly declassified details from the Japanese atomic programs. Kirkus Reviews, the nation's premier book review magazine, calls it a "A breakneck historical thriller." Additionally, Kirkus recently selected it as a recommended book on its 2014 Indie Summer Reading List.

Coral Hare: Atomic Agent is Lee's debut World War II thriller. Mina Sakamoto, code-named Coral Hare, is a young agent who infiltrates the Japanese atomic bomb program. No ordinary teenage girl, Coral Hare was born and raised in Honolulu, learns medicine from her physician father, and also becomes proficient in several languages. Her life is changed forever on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and Mina's beloved father is killed. As a skilled Japanese-American linguist, she's uniquely suited to join the U.S. government's Office of Strategic Services --

first a translator and later as a spy posing as a young nurse.

The book is dedicated to the members of the 442nd RCT as well as all members of the Greatest Generation, for their trials, tribulations, and the sacrifices they have made to preserve America's way of life. For more information: please go to Website: www.coralhare.com; Twitter: @coralhare; or Email the Author: coralhare@gmail.com.



[Editor's Note. When the Merrill's Marauders disbanded following its legendary performance in Burma, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi was assigned to an allied interrogation team in Chungking, China, where, in early 1945, Hirabayashi interrogated a Japanese 1st Lt, a nuclear scientist. The prisoner volunteered that Japan was developing an atom bomb so devastating it could level a city. He said research and development were being conducted at three locations: Tokyo Imperial University by the Army, Kyoto University by the Navy, and Osaka University by an independent group. Hirabayashi discussed his report with his supervisor and other officers who dismissed the report as rubbish and gave Hirabayashi the impression he had been overseas too long. Frustrated that he could not get his interrogation report released, Hirabayashi put his report in the classified trash. On August 6, 1945 the atom bomb was dropped over Hiroshima. Lynn Bettencourt, Grant's daughter, provided research support for this editor's note.]

News from Veterans Organizations & Friends

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. NVC Newsletter for May said that the National Veterans Committee/National Veterans Committee Foundation newly remodeled Hall was opened for public viewing on May 4, 2014. The remodeling included Lefty's Room, which features pre-war life in Japan Town, the Go For Broke Room for Minidoka Internment Camp, the Medal of Honor Museum and the Gymnasium, all of which were put on display.

HONOLULU, HAWAII. The Hawaii 442nd Veterans Club Go For Broke Bulletin, March 2014 issue, noted the successful 71st Anniversary luncheon was held at the Dole Cannery Complex in Iwilei on March 23, 2014. Of the some 600 participants, about 85 were 442nd veterans. The Bulletin also noted the unveiling of the Nisei WWII Legacy Wall display at the Central Pacific Bank.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA. Go For Broke National Education Center E-Torch for June 2014 discussed its effort to obtain views and ideas from seminars held at selected locations nationwide for its state of the art museum that will be located near the Japanese American National Museum. The e-Torch has also announced GFBNEC plans to expand its Hanashi (oral history) project to include Korean War veterans.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. In its June 2014 announcement, NJAHS said its "education program provides students the tools to prepare themselves as informed citizens in a constitutional democracy. The study of the Japanese American internment is one that all students should reflect upon as it is their shared responsibility to protect the rights of all individuals at all times"

HONOLULU, HAWAII. The Hawaii 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club *Puka-Puka Parade* for April 2014 discussed the importance of educating the Americans on the Japanese American experience during WWII. It quoted President Lloyd Kitaoka as saying: "what happened to Americans of Japanese ancestry could happen again to any ethnic minority."

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA. The National Veterans Newwork announced that the Congressional Gold Medal, bronze replica, can be obtained from the US Mint [www.usmint.gov] for \$39.95, plus \$8.00 for a presentation case. Background on the medal design can also be obtained by an internet search for the US Mint.

PORTLAND, OREGON. The Portland JACL Newsletter for June 2014 reported that Peggy Nagae, the lead attorney in the landmark civil rights case, *Min Yasui v. the United States*, is working to get Yasui honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. In the VFW Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter for May 2014, Post Commander Loren Ishii said that since no one has stepped forward to serve as Commander he will continue serving for the next three year term. JAVA salutes your dedication, Loren.

KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII. The Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center June 2014 newsletter reported on historian Eric Saul's exhibit at the Center entitled *Nisei Soldiers who fought the war on two fronts*. Saul also visited and held seminars at the Center.

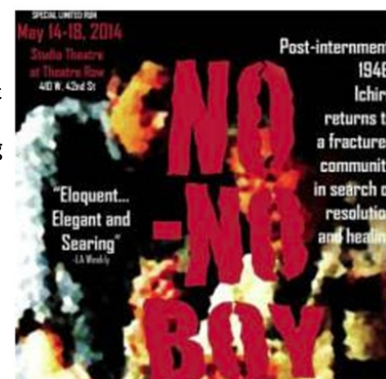
Setting the Record Straight: The Play "No-No Boy" by Gerald Yamada

New York. I saw the play "No-No Boy" at the Studio Theatre on Theatre Row in New York City on May 14, 2014. Ken Narasaki is the playwright adapting the play from a novel written by John Okada that was first published in 1957. Ron Nakahara directed the play, and the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre produced it. The play, which takes place two years after the end of World War II, tells the story of a young Japanese American-- Ichiro Yamada --who was sentenced to prison for refusing to serve in the US military while he and his family were in a war relocation center camp. As the play opens, he is returning to Seattle upon his release from prison. His family had already resettled in Seattle after the war.

Ichiro refused to serve when he received a draft notice. He was entirely influenced by his domineering mother who was pro-Japan and did not want her son fighting against Japan. To satisfy his mother, he chose to be a war resister and serve prison time rather than to be inducted into the Army. Upon his return home, he finds that his mother was refusing to believe that Japan had lost the war and that she dismissed photos of the destruction of Hiroshima as propaganda. She was still waiting to return to a victorious Japan.

The play centers on the themes of honesty and self-reflection as Ichiro deals with anger from his younger patriotic brother, continued dominance from his strong-willed mother, and disdain from former friends who served. In so doing, it seeks to broaden the audience's understanding as to why Ichiro's actions were not acts of disloyalty. The play is enlightening in that it gives perhaps one explanation as to why some refused military service. To the play's credit, it does not foment divisiveness within the community by pitting one group against another as a blame game or as a deceptive play to hide pro-Japan loyalties; nor does it ask for an apology

The play was well produced and directed and convincingly performed by all of the actors and actresses. Unfortunately, it had a limited engagement at the Studio Theatre in New York City. It was well worth my trip to New York City.



Bob Nakamoto, former JAVA President, Passes

Leesburg, Virginia. Robert Nakamoto, known to all as "Bob," passed away on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at his home in Leesburg, Virginia, surrounded by his children and family members. Bob was President of JAVA from 2007-2010 and since that time was Chair of JAVA's Finance Committee. He also served in JAVA's Speakers Bureau to publicize the Japanese American experience during WWII. Bob was deeply involved in veterans and community activities nationwide, supporting them with his time, executive expertise, and contributions. Bob was Chairman of Amour, LLC and Chairman of InterAmerica Global, both involved in international exports. Prior to that, he was Chairman and principal owner of Base Technologies Inc., a 25 year-old information technology company, headquartered in McLean, Virginia.

He also had served as Director of Corporate System, MCI; Deputy Commissioner for Planning for the State of Texas; Director of Planning for Medicare and Medicaid Programs for the federal government; and Manager of Data Processing for the State of California and Sacramento County.

He served on Presidential Task Forces for both parties. Born in California and a graduate of California State University, he was a Veteran of the Korean War and the father of five children.

During his lifetime, Bob received various awards, including the Government of Japan Foreign Minister's Award in recognition of his efforts to enhance Japan-US relations; was conferred the title of Honorary Citizen of Texas; and, earlier this year, received JAVA's Terry Shima Leadership Award.

Bob will be interred at the National Arlington Cemetery. A memorial service was held on May 14, 2014 at the River Creek Club, Leesburg, VA. Bob's family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the "Bob Nakamoto Scholarship Fund." Please send your checks to JAVA Treasurer, Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. On the check memorandum line please state "Bob Nakamoto Scholarship Fund." Cards and letters to Bob's family are being received at 43714 Moorland Court, Leesburg, VA 20176.



Bob Nakamoto(R) and the late Sen. Daniel Inouye

442nd Combat Medic Kelly Kuwayama Passes. Saved Senator Inouye's Life in Po Valley



Kuwayama presenting President Truman with a check contributed by members of the 442nd for the Memorial to President Roosevelt. 9/11/1945.

Washington, DC. Yeiichi "Kelly" Kuwayama, Combat Medic, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, passed away at noon on June 29, 2014. He was 96.

Though a graduate of Princeton University, he was unable to find employment due to his ethnicity, and entered the US Army in 1941. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, because the loyalty of all Japanese Americans was questioned at that time, he was transferred from a line unit to a medical unit at Fort Ethan Allen, VT. A surprised Kuwayama found he had been reclassified as a "surgical technician" without any formal medical training.

He volunteered for the 442nd RCT when it was activated in 1943, and was assigned to its Medical Unit. After training in Camp Shelby, MS, the 442nd was sent to Naples, Italy, arriving in May, 1944.

Kuwayama quickly earned the reputation of treating his wounded comrades under fierce enemy fire with total disregard of his own life. He served in one the most ferocious battles of World War II, the 442nd's rescue of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division (often referred to as "The Lost Battalion") in the Vosges Mountains of France. The 442nd broke through the enemy entrapment in five days to save 211 survivors. Kelly himself was wounded during the grueling battle

near Biffontaine, France, on Oct. 29, 1944 but soon rejoined the 442nd.

Senator Daniel Inouye, also of Company E, credited Kuwayama for saving his life when he lost his right arm in the Italian Po Valley campaign in April, 1945. Besides uncommon courage, Kuwayama displayed leadership uncommon for a medic. When German snipers targeted unarmed Nisei medics with their Red Cross insignia conspicuously painted on their helmets, the infantrymen in Company E, in their state of anger, decided to retaliate against enemy medics as well. However, Kuwayama stepped forward and told the men that shooting unarmed medics with the Red Cross insignia displayed, even if they are the enemy, was a violation of the Geneva Convention and that "two wrongs don't make a right." Kuwayama's words had a tone of authority beyond his rank and the soldiers complied.

By the end of the war, Kuwayama had been awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Combat Medical Badge, Italian Croce di Valore and the French Legion of Honor.

After being discharged in 1945 at the war's end, Kuwayama completed a MBA from Harvard Business School on the GI Bill in 1947 and continued with a successful career as the US General Manager for Nomura Securities, as well as with the Office of Foreign Direct Investment of the US Department of Commerce, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Civil Liberties Public Education fund mandated by the US Congress. Kuwayama is survived by his wife, Fumiko, his sister Tomi and brother George. A sister, Aya, predeceased him in 2011. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Japanese American Veterans Association, c/o Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. Please make checks payable to JAVA and on memo line write "Kelly Kuwayama." [EDNOTE: Full article at www.javadc.org]

CIA forerunner picked 442nd Member for Service. Dick Hamada, JAVA Member, Passes

By William Cole, Honolulu Star Advertiser. June 20, 2014

Dick Shigemi Hamada had four major fears serving as a Japanese-American in Burma during World War II. First was being mistakenly shot by fellow Americans. Second was a mistaken attack by the Burmese Kachin Rangers who he was fighting alongside. The third fear was tigers, and the fourth was the Japanese enemy. "Being in a jungle, being that we possess the face of an enemy, I was very much afraid of people that I didn't know," Hamada said in an oral history that's part of the Hawaii Nisei Project at the University of Hawaii. "I was safe with my people, Americans ... but there are other people that you would run (with) during your campaign that didn't know who you were," Hamada said. "And that was what I was afraid of. I was afraid of being shot by them. So an American always accompanied me wherever I went."

Born on Hawaii island to a carpenter father and picture bride mother, Hamada later watched as Japanese planes raced over Moiliili on December 7, 1941. "I felt betrayed and now feared for the worst to come to all American Japanese," he said in another firsthand account. Volunteering for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943, Hamada was one of a relatively small number of Nisei to be picked for duty with the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor of the Central Intelligence Agency. He deciphered messages and reported casualty figures to higher headquarters as part of Detachment 101 in Burma, and in 1945 parachuted into Peiping (now Beijing), China, to rescue prisoners of war, including four Doolittle Raiders.



Dick Hamada, Honolulu, OSS, Detachment 101

Hamada died at age 92 on May 27. He was a retired planner and estimator supervisor for the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard -- where he had also worked at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941, attacks. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Hamada's son, Luke, recalled "my father's role in U.S. history and his painful memories of World War II," Luke said his father never talked much about his service. "He is a very humble man," and that was part of his Japanese culture, Luke said. Hamada's service took a detour into the unconventional world of intelligence gathering and guerrilla tactics when an OSS recruiter looking for Japanese language skills came through Camp Shelby, Miss., where the 442nd was training. Hamada was among a handful of Nisei selected for the program. In Burma, Hamada was instructed to keep a bullet to use on himself if capture was imminent, because "the ultimate torture would be so great, and I'd probably end up dead," Hamada said in the oral history account. He also learned there was a \$20,000 reward for the capture of one of the Japanese-Americans. The OSS promised to provide whatever was requested, within reason, and Hamada asked for and received a .22-caliber pistol with a silencer.

On his first mission he went behind enemy lines in a single-engine aircraft to interrogate prisoners but found there weren't any because the Japanese would shoot themselves, or each other, rather than be captured. With the help of the Burmese Kachin Rangers, who knew the jungle, the kill ratio was 30- to-1. Hamada estimated there were a handful of Americans among the 200 to 300 Kachin soldiers. In June, 1945, Hamada was sent to China for parachute training and was assigned to Operation Magpie to rescue POWs. Japan surrendered in mid-August, and although the rescue was a mercy mission, 12 Japanese soldiers with bayonets surrounded the parachuting troops when they landed on August 17, 1945. A debate ensued as to whether the war was in fact over, but about 50 POWs eventually were secured, including four Doolittle Raiders who had taken the fight to Japan in bombing raids in 1942. Copyright (c) Honolulu Star-Advertiser [Printed with approval from Honolulu Star Advertiser]

Special Forces Hero of Battle of Nphum Ga Burma, Dies days from 101th Birthday



San Juan Island, Washington. Ranger Roy Matsumoto, a World War II hero inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home on San Juan Island, WA on April 21, 2014, ten days from his 101st birthday. Matsumoto went to Japan during the period of his middle school for three years and returned to the US around 1930, when he was about 17. He was interned at Jerome, AR internment camp where he volunteered to serve in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) as a linguist. Following his MIS Language School training at Camp Savage, MN he and some 200 other Nisei linguists volunteered for "dangerous and hazardous duty". Matsumoto was among the 14 selected for a mission that the War Department warned would sustain "85% casualties." The Nisei volunteers were not told the nature of the mission nor the location, except the presumption it would be in the Asia Pacific War Zone.

Matsumoto and his Nisei colleagues would eventually learn they would serve as linguists/infantrymen in a special forces brigade to liberate Burma. The brigade was called the 5307th Composite Unit, commanded by BG Frank Dow Merrill, and became better known as the Merrill's Marauders. Their mission was to capture the town of Myitkyina, for its all-weather airport and position as the Burma Road gateway, which transported war materiel from India to China. The Marauders hiked some 700 miles through back roads, jungle, and swamps engaging the Japanese in many clashes.

While negotiating their way through enemy territory in Walawbum, Matsumoto noticed wires strung from tree to tree. He climbed the tree, a clear target of enemy snipers, and tapped the wires that resulted in the bombing of the enemy ammunition storage and bivouac areas. General Merrill awarded Matsumoto the Legion of Merit. About a month later, on April 5, 1944, at Nphum Ga, Matsumoto crawled one night to the enemy bivouac area, eaves dropped on the Japanese plans to invade Matsumoto's battalion location the following morning. Being forewarned, the battalion commander prepared his troops. When the enemy struck with overwhelming force the following morning they were turned back leaving 59 of their buddies on the ground. He received no recognition for likely saving his battalion of 600 men from possible annihilation. Sgt Warren Ventura asked the battalion commander why Matsumoto was not being recommended for the Medal of Honor. The commander replied "he was only an enlisted man doing his duty". The 2nd Battalion would move on and participate in the capture of Myitkyina. When the Marauders disbanded after accomplishing their mission, only 15% of the original complement were standing.

Creation of JAVA Honor Roll Approved

by Gerald Yamada

At its June 14, 2014, meeting, JAVA's Executive Committee approved the creation of an Honor Roll on its website to recognize supporters who have made significant financial contributions towards JAVA's general operations. In addition to approving creation of the Honor Roll, the EC approved Glen S. Fukushima, Robert Nakamoto, the Tanimura Family Foundation, and Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin and as the first to be listed on the JAVA Honor Roll. Nominations for the Honor Roll will be identified by the JAVA Awards Committee. To be nominated, the supporter must have contributed at least \$5,000 towards JAVA general operations. Terry Shima was appointed as the chair of the Awards Committee.



Thank you, Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

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Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date: _____
Title or Rank: _____ Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Telephone: _____ Mobile Telephone: _____
E-mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____
Status: Active Duty: _____ Retired: _____ Honorably Discharged: Yes _____ No _____
Reservist/National Guard: _____ Cadet/Midshipman: _____
Current or Last Military Unit: _____
Dates of Service: _____

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

War Veteran Member: _____ General Member: _____ Friend of JAVA: _____

Are you a spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, name of war veteran, veteran or cadet/midshipman: _____

Dates that relative served: _____ Which Service? _____

Mail application to: Wade Ishimoto or e-mail application to: Pohaku59@aol.com
5703 Barbmor Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

Application Explanations: JAVA is a registered 501(c) (19) War Veterans Organization and must comply with Internal Revenue Code provisions that require 90% of its membership to be comprised of war veterans. To qualify as a **War Veteran Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any of these periods but need not have served in a war zone:

- December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
- June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
- August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975;
- August 2, 1990 to present.

To qualify as a **General Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any period other than those specified above. In addition, cadets/midshipmen and spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans or cadets/midshipmen qualify for General Membership.

Friends of JAVA are those who support the purpose of JAVA but who do not qualify for membership; Friends of JAVA memberships have no voting rights.

JAVA does not currently assess membership dues. However, donations are accepted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27, 2014 – GFBNEC, Los Angeles, Evening of Aloha Dinner

October 11, 2014 – JAVA Executive Council (EC) Meeting

October 25, 2014 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

November 11, 2014 - 2:00 PM – JAVA Veterans Day Program. National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

December 6, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting

January 17, 2015 – 11:30 – JAVA Annual Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

March 7, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

March 14, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Venue same as above.

March 28, 2015 – NJAMF – JAVA Annual Freedom Walk, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

April 11 – Sakura Matsuri

May 24, 2015 – Memorial Day Service at Columbarium and Laying of Wreath at Tomb of the Unknown

May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC

June 20, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

July 11, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Venue same as above.

October 3, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

October 24, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Venue same as above.

December 12, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

**c/o JAVA President
10316 Mountington Court
Vienna, Virginia 22182**

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Memorial Day: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) or LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR (see above)

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Round Robin: LTC Brett Egusa, USAR, begusa@gmail.com

Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, ryoshika@verizon.net

Scholarship: Wade Ishimoto (see above)

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (see above)

Veterans Day: Col Bruce Hollywood (Ret) (see above)

Webmaster: Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org; 703-425-1444 and James Tani, jamestani@aol.com

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